

Neurosurgery

Going home after Craniotomy and Clipping of cerebral artery aneurysm

This leaflet is intended to provide you with some useful information following your recent surgery. If you have any other concern, please speak to the nursing staff.

Your wound

- Your head (craniotomy) wound has been closed with metal clips which require removal five days following your surgery. This may be done prior to discharge; alternatively they can be removed by your GP or practice nurse once you are at home.
- You may find that the scar is tender or numb for some time following surgery. This is quite normal, but if it becomes inflamed or more painful you should consult your GP.

Headaches

- Headaches are quite common following surgery and some patients experience pain in the jaw, especially when chewing. This may take several months to settle down. If headaches do not improve with simple pain killers, seek advice from your GP.

Washing your hair

- You should not wash your hair while the clips are in place but it is safe to do so gently the day after the clips are removed.
- Avoid the use of hair dyes or perms for at least one month after the wound has completely healed.

Returning to work

- This varies with each individual.
- You should remain off work until you have discussed going back with your consultant at the outpatients clinic.

- Many people find it useful to go back part-time initially and gradually increase their hours as they feel able.
- You may find that you tire much more easily than before your operation, so do only as much as you feel able.

Driving

- The regulations regarding driving vary according to certain circumstances. You should inform the DVLA of your operation and should not drive until you have received their written approval. Surgery for a cerebral artery aneurysm does not necessarily mean that you will be prevented from driving in the future but you may be required to stop driving for a specified period of time. The DVLA will contact your consultant for information regarding your operation.

The address to write to is:

DVLA Drivers' Medical Group
Longview Road
Swansea
SA99 1TU
Telephone number: 01792 783438

Exercise and sport

- You should continue to exercise as much as you feel able to. Start slowly and increase gradually.
- You may resume most sports as soon as you feel able but you should permanently avoid contact sports such as rugby. Check with your GP or consultant if you are not sure.

Sexual intercourse

- It is quite safe to resume a normal sex life.
- Women are advised to discuss pregnancy with their GP or consultant before starting or increasing a family.

Smoking

- Smoking is known to cause damage to all blood vessels including those within the brain. You are advised to stop smoking completely.
- Help is available, please ask the nursing staff.

Flying

- It is safe to fly after three months although you may experience headaches due to changes in air pressure.

Follow up

- Unless you experience any problems, a routine follow up appointment will be sent to you for two to three months after your surgery.
- If you are worried or need advice regarding your operation, please contact the Clinical Nurse Practitioner on 01223 274492 or your GP.

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Potete chiedere di ottenere queste informazioni in altre lingue, in stampato grande o in audiocassetta.

Italian

若你需要本信息的繁體中文、大字體或音訊格式的版本，請要求索取。

Cantonese

तमने आ माळिती बीछ भाषाओमां, मोटा अक्षरोमां अथवा सांभणी शकाय जेवा माध्यम (ओडीओ डोमेट)मां जेठती छोय तो कृपा करीने पूछो.

Gujarati

تکایہ پرسیار بگہ نہ گہر نہ وزانیاریہت دہوی بہ زمانیکی تر , بہ بیٹی گہورہ یانیش بہ شیوہی دہنگ

Kurdish

آگراپ کو یہ معلومات دوسری زبانوں میں، بڑے الفاظ کی اشاعت میں یا آڈیو ٹیپ پر درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس کیلئے درخواست کریں۔

Urdu



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. Please do not smoke anywhere on the site.

For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free, 0800 169 0 169

Document history

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